

The Cycle of the Servant (Mark 6:30-34)

Proposition: Every one of us, as believes can live healthy productive spiritual lives by following the three guidelines laid out in the text before us.

- I. Be Comforted in the Reception of the Saviour (Vs. 29-31)
 - A. A Reception in Times of Emotion (Vs. 29)
 - B. A Reception in Times of Elation (Vs. 30)
 - C. A Reception in Times of Exhaustion (Vs. 31a)
- II. Be Constrained to the Rest of the Servant (Vs. 31-32)
 - A. Be Purposeful in Your Spiritual Rest (Vs. 31-32)
 - B. Be Private in Your Spiritual Rest (Vs. 32)
 - C. Be Periodic in Your Spiritual Rest (Vs. 31)
- III. Be Conscious of the Want of the Sheep (Vs. 33-34)
 - A. Be Obliging to the Cry of the Sheep (Vs. 33-34)
 - B. Be Affectionate upon the Condition of the Sheep (Vs. 34)

The Cycle of the Servant Mark 6: 30-34

Life is very much made up of Cycles. The seasons are a cycle, Our days are a cycle, Our work is in a cycle. - The things we do are in a cycle. And when we break or interrupt these cycles it can have disastrous affects on our lives. When I was in college, I wouldn't study all semester and right at the end I would pull an all nighter and study all I could for the exam, When I would do that I would be messed up for days, It would mess up my sleep cycle.

- The life of a Christian, like we will see in our text is very much a delicate cycle. A cycle that can easily get out of kilter and very easily throw our christian life out of balance. But in our text the Lord Jesus gives us a healthy balanced cycle for the active servant to follow. Every one of us as believers can live healthy productive, spiritual lives by following the 3 guidelines laid out in our ^{text}.

Be Comforted in the Reception of the Saviour (Vs. 29-31)

In the previous section of scripture, we retraced the life & death of John Baptist. Just before in vs 12-13, Jesus

Sent out disciples on first assignment, now they are

A. A Reception in Times of Emotion (Vs 29.)

The catalyst for bringing together the disciples of the Lord Jesus was probably the death of John the Baptist. Many knew of John, word would have spread quickly.

The news must have sent a combination of sorrow and fear through their minds. Yet they were granted reception w/ Jesus. There's not a friend like the

B. A Reception in Times of Exhaustion (Vs 30)

Upon reading Vs 30, I recall Ps 16:11. This sad funeral scene, quickly turned into elation over telling of the work of God. We need to take care in regard to who they are telling their work to: The Lord. When we tell each other

our words turn from bragging on the sinner to boast in self. ^{we can see} Charles Spurgeon. But in times of rejoicing

C. A Reception in Times of Exhaustion (Vs 31a)

Notice verse 31. It is as though Jesus can see the exhaustion on their face.

Though maybe excitement filled their heart exhaustion consumed their bodies. I remember many a day where I got to preach SS, Church Jail & Sunday night. Exhausted in end but glory what a day. At the end of such labors find...

II. Be Constrained to the Rest of the Servant

(Vs 31-32) Ch 10 31 Jesus gave them an order! A command to come apart to rest. Vance Haunert - if you don't come apart

1) ...they are returning from the fields of labor and service.

When you are laboring in the fields of service be comforted in the reception of the Saviour. Notice first we can count on:

2) Psalms 16:11 ...in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore.

3) Charles Spurgeon - What mean these dispatches from the battlefield? "Last night fourteen souls were under conviction, fifteen were justified, and eight received full sanctification." I am weary of this public bragging, this counting of unhatched chickens, this exhibition of doubtful spoils. Lay aside such numberings of the people, such idle pretence of certifying in half a minute that which will need the testing of a lifetime.

4) ...at the end of such labors you can find a comforting reception at Jesus feet!

1) ...service is like a sponge. The more you give the more they will take. Jesus saw disaster ahead for these weary servants and called them away. We too can be over spent in labors. I heard a poem that said "Mary had a little lamb, twas given her to keep. But then she join the local church, and died from lack of sleep!" Both physical and spiritual rest is an imperative a necessity!!

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4) ...at the end of such labor you can find a comforting reception at Jesus feet!!

and rest you will come apart. Service is like a D

A. Be Purposeful in Your Spiritual Rest
(Vs 31-32) Vs 31 said that they didn't even have time to eat! Note the Lamb of Jesus - "Go yourselves" Upon that have been laboring, come apart. Spiritual rest just doesn't happen, like physical rest. We must be purposeful. Vs 32 said they had to get into a boat to find it. It ^{drastically improves} my ~~work~~ ^{life}

B. Be Private in Your Spiritual Rest
(Vs 32) The word desert indicates a lone one, isolated, solitary place. A place apart from others a private place, to meet and commune w/ the Lord. What a devotional lesson for us to learn! Do you have such a desert place. A place to come apart so you don't come apart

C. Be Periodic in Your Spiritual Rest
Vs 31 "rest a while" Jesus didn't wish them away with the intent of never bring them back, No he took them apart of the sole purpose that he might bring them back. We rest that we might be effective in our Jesus and homes. We steal away w/ Jesus to labor afresh ~~once~~ again. Rested body - better work

III. Be Conscious of the Want of the Sheep
(Vs. 33-34) Now there's a ditch on both side of the road. Laboring w/ rest but also rest in excess and neglect of Labor. We are not

to be monks or hermits as we see in VS 33-34.
A. Be Obliging to the Cry of the Sheep
(VS 33-34) The word obliging interesting
word. Country word! "did he more than happen."
No. Oblige comes from Obligate. An Obligation.
We have an obligation to attend to the cry
of the sheep. Richard Baxter said... Only
enough to meet the necessary rest, Jesus
said in John 9:4. Yes there is a need for
rest but it is often overruled by the need
for help. Jesus did not resent the interruption.
Tonight I was feverishly writing the message
I became irritated at how for this interruption ^{Jesus} not.

B. Be Affectionate upon the Condition of
the Sheep. (VS 34) - When I first
began to minister and preach, it was
driven by a sense of obligation that
turned into affection. Not long after I started
to preach, deacon Bob McGee said I put you
down to preach at mission here's the date.
I didn't want to go but I went out of
a sense of obligation. Not long after
I began to have those haggard faces
and rumpled clothes. Jesus Servant of
Jehovah burst into compassionate service.

IV. Closing - Where are you in this
cycle. Are you weary, Come to Jesus.
Need spiritual change? Come apart.
Have you turned a deaf ear to the needs
and ^{and your}

- 1) Richard Baxter - Recreation to the Christian must be as whetting (sharpening) to the mower (lawnmower), that is, to be used only so far as is necessary for his work.
- 2) John 9:4 I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day...

- 3) ...service when confronted with the condition of the sheep. When we look do we really see the need?